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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 CAIRO 000065

SIPDIS

NEA/ELA FOR CANEDO
H FOR MACDERMOTT (PLEASE PASS TO SENATOR DORGAN)
IO FOR SIEKMAN

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SUBJECT: CODEL DORGAN VISIT TO EGYPT DECEMBER 13-14 REF: A. CAIRO 2542 B. CAIRO 2435 C. CAIRO 2502 D. CAIRO 2505 Classified By

[1](#)1. (SBU) SUMMARY: Senators Byron Dorgan (ND), Thad Cochran (MS), Kent Conrad (ND) and Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) visited Cairo on December 13-14

----- PRESIDENT MUBARAK: "LISTEN TO YOUR FRIENDS" -----

[1](#)2. (C) During an hour and a half long breakfast at the Presidential Palace on December 14, President Mubarak expressed his hope that the incon

[1](#)3. (C) The U.S. needs to "listen to its friends" in the region, Mubarak advised Senator Dorgan. When George Bush Sr. was president, "he liste

[1](#)4. (C) By making these mistakes, the U.S. has empowered Iran, whose goal, according to Mubarak, is "to control the entire region." "They are

[1](#)5. (C) In an unusual, if oblique, reference to U.S. assistance to Egypt and calls for political reform, Mubarak told Senator Dorgan that "Eggy

----- DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT FOCUSED ON REGIONAL CHALLENGES AND US MILITARY ASSISTANCE; POE

[1](#)6. (SBU) Assistant Minister of Defense Major General Mohamed al Assar, Chief of the United States Division at the Ministry of Defense, and Ger

[1](#)7. (SBU) Al Assar thanked the senators for Foreign Military Funds (FMF) to Egypt and asked that the new administration maintain the current FM

[1](#)8. (SBU) Senator Dorgan noted that container security programs are a vital part of the U.S.'s counter-terrorism strategy and thanked the GOE

[1](#)9. (SBU) In response to Senator Whitehouse's question regarding piracy in the Gulf of Aden, Al Assar said that Egypt's economy could be hurt s

----- INTELLIGENCE CHIEF ON EGYPT'S ROLE IN THE PEACE PROCESS AND COUNTER-TERRORISM ----

[1](#)10. (C) General Omar Suleiman, chief of the Egyptian General Intelligence Service (EGIS) discussed the three remaining obstacles to resolving

[1](#)11. (C) Suleiman told the Senators that Egypt has a three-pronged approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: first, it has worked since Apr

[1](#)12. (C) Suleiman ended by telling the Senators that the tragedy of the September 11 attacks against the U.S. unified the world against terrori

----- LUNCH WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER -----

[1](#)13. (C) Foreign Minister Aboul Gheit told the senators that the U.S. has an important role to play in the region and must rely more on diplome

[1](#)14. (C) Aboul Gheit identified the Muslim Brotherhood as the "vanguard of radicalism" and highlighted the long history of radical Islam activ

----- Senator Whitehouse Meeting with Gamal Mubarak -----

[1](#)15. (C) During his meeting with Senator Whitehouse, NDP Assistant Secretary General Gamal Mubarak covered impact of economic crisis on Egypt